

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-0516

Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church

10911 Reisterstown Road

Owings Mills, Baltimore County

1871

Private

As a replacement for the mid-19th century Pleasant Hill Chapel, the Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1871 south of Reisterstown, at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and the Reisterstown Road. It is possible that the extant church incorporates the earlier building, for a portion of the church's foundation is random rubble stone, while the remaining foundation is of American bond brick. Further historic research and an intensive-level survey of the property would aid in determining whether or not the mid-19th century chapel remains as a portion of the current structure. Although Reisterstown was well established by the mid-19th century, this section of the turnpike was still only modestly developed. A mill, schoolhouse, tavern, and two stores were the only buildings other than the church and a few dwellings scattered along the road. By 1877, the extant Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church had been constructed and the neighboring cemetery established. Although prior documentation indicates that the educational building was added in 1926, it is believed that the structure was enlarged in 1960.

The Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church sits back from the road facing west. The foundation, constructed of American bond brick, supports a brick structure laid out in seven-course American bond brick. The main block stands two-and-a-half stories tall and three bays wide with a one-story ell that is four bays deep. The foundation of this ell is constructed with random rubble stone and might pre-date 1871. Two double-leaf entries flank the front gable façade of the main block. Each consists of wood paneled doors under a round-arched stained glass transom. Placed between the first and second stories on the façade is a stained glass window with a round-arched stained glass transom. In the gable end flanked by cornice returns is a round stained glass window. On the west elevation of the ell are four tripartite stained glass windows each with a round-arched stained glass transom. All of the doors and windows on the west elevation of the main block and ell have molded wood surrounds, stone sills, and soldier course brick lintels that trace the round-arched transoms. The church was expanded further to the south with a nine-bay addition with a side gable roof and octagonal cupola. Connecting these two portions of the church is a shed roof hyphen. Exterior end brick chimneys with corbeled caps were placed on the east elevation of the main block, the ell, and the addition. Located to the east of the church is an historic cemetery containing approximately 300 markers.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0516

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church (preferred)
other Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number 10911 Reisterstown Road not for publication
city, town Owings Mills vicinity
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church
street and number 133 Pleasant Hill Road telephone Not Available
city, town Owings Mills state MD zip code 21117

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 211 folio 393
city, town Towson tax map 58 tax parcel 216 tax ID number 0420066375

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Contributing 1
Noncontributing 1
Total 2

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0516

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built in the Gothic Revival style, Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1871 and sits back from the road facing west. The foundation, constructed of American bond brick, supports a brick structure laid out in seven-course American bond brick. The main block stands two-and-a-half stories tall and three bays wide with a one-story ell that is four bays deep. The foundation of this ell is constructed with random rubble stone and might pre-date 1871. Two double-leaf entries flank the front gable façade of the main block. Each consists of wood paneled doors under a round-arched stained glass transom. Placed between the first and second stories on the façade is a stained glass window with a round-arched stained glass transom. In the gable end flanked by cornice returns is a round stained glass window. On the west elevation of the ell are four tripartite stained glass windows each with a round-arched stained glass transom. All of the doors and windows on the west elevation of the main block and ell have molded wood surrounds, stone sills, and soldier course brick lintels that trace the round-arched transoms. The church was expanded further to the south with a nine-bay addition with a side gable roof and octagonal cupola. Connecting these two portions of the church is a shed roof hyphen. Exterior end brick chimneys with corbeled caps were placed on the east elevation of the main block, the ell, and the addition.

Located to the east of the church is a cemetery containing approximately 300 markers. Set on a grassy lot, the cemetery is surrounded on two sides by mature trees and a chain link fence. Dating from the late 19th century to the 20th century, these marble and granite headstones vary in form from upright to flat. Some of the family names include Zile, Grimes, Fox, Disney, Ziegler, Bowen, and Fowble.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0516

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1871-present	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1871, 1960		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

As a replacement for the mid-19th century Pleasant Hill Chapel, the Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1871 south of Reisterstown, at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and the Reisterstown Road.¹ It is possible that the extant church incorporates the earlier building, for a portion of the church's foundation is random rubble stone, while the remaining foundation is of American bond brick. Further historic research and an intensive-level survey of the property would aid in determining whether or not the mid-19th century chapel remains as a portion of the current structure. Although Reisterstown was well established by the mid-19th century, this section of the turnpike was still only modestly developed. A mill, schoolhouse, tavern, and two stores were the only buildings other than the church and a few dwellings scattered along the road.² By 1877, the extant Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church had been constructed and the neighboring cemetery established.³ Although prior documentation indicates that the educational building was added in 1926, it is believed that the structure was enlarged in 1960.⁴

The 18th century community of Reisterstown is named for John Reister, who settled "Reister's Desire" in 1758. Shortly thereafter he laid out Reister's Town Road, along which he established a tavern for travelers passing through on their way to Baltimore. Reisterstown was strategically located at the intersection of roads leading to Baltimore, Westminster, and Hanover, thus lending importance to the community as a turnpike town. In the 1810s, the condition of Reisterstown Road significantly improved when the Baltimore and Reisterstown Turnpike Company completed construction along the route.⁵ By 1850, Reisterstown's importance along the turnpike was evident by the considerable development of the community. Numerous buildings, including dwellings, taverns, and other commercial structures, were located along the Reisterstown Turnpike.⁶ At that time, the town's population had reached 500, and Reisterstown appeared slated for further growth.⁷ By 1881, the population had reached 600, and establishments in the town included one public school, three private

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

² J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

⁴ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

⁵ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), pp. 49-50.

⁶ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

⁷ Brooks and Rockel, p. 308.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, 10911 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

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schools, three seminaries, Catholic, Lutheran, and Methodist Episcopal churches, and several fraternal and benevolent orders.⁸ By 1896, the population had reached 1,000.⁹ The 1915 county atlas indicates that further growth in the community slowed. By that time, the neighboring communities of Delight and Owings Mills began to expand on the south side of Reisterstown.¹⁰ Through the 20th century, the town has become a suburb of Baltimore City.

⁸ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 855.

⁹ Brooks and Rockel, 308.

¹⁰ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0516

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.30 Acres
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Reisterstown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1871, the Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated with the 1.3 acres of land known as tax parcel 216 of map 58 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

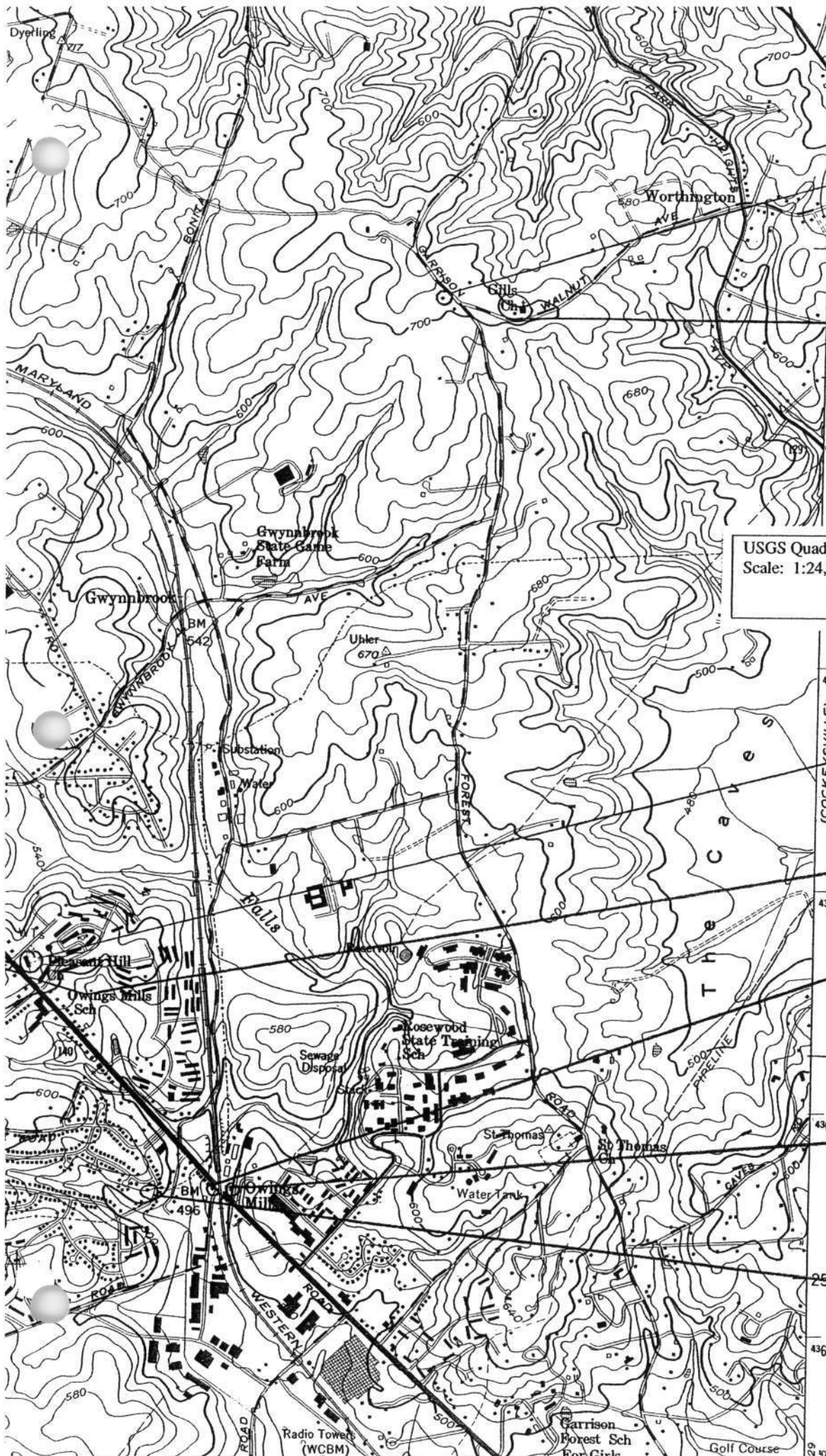
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



- 4370
- BA-2312
12112 GARRISON FOREST RD
OWINGS MILLS
27°30' BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2111
3408 WALNUT AVENUE
OWINGS MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- USGS Quad: REISTERSTOWN
Scale: 1:24,000
- BA-0516
133 PLEASANT HILL RD
OWINGS MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-0661
10912 REISTERSTOWN RD
OWINGS MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-0658
10512 REISTERSTOWN RD
OWINGS MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-0650
- BA-0651
24 LASTGATE ROAD
OWINGS MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- 4369
- 4368
- MD. 130
U.S. 11 12 MI.
- BA
- (COCKEYSVILLE) NW
5662
- 4367
- 4366
- 4365
- 25'
- 4364
- 129
25



BT-0516

10911 REISTERSTOWN ROAD

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

7/2001

MD-SHPD

W ELEVATION

1 of 4



BA-0516

10911 REISTERSTOWN ROAD

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

4/2001

MD-STPO

NE CORNER

2-f4



BA-0516.

10911 REISTERSTOWN ROAD

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

SE CORNER

3 of 4



BA-0516

10911 REISTERSTOWN ROAD

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD
CEMETERY

4 of 4

BA- 516

PLEASANT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1871 - 10911
Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills. Constructed under
leadership of Dr. John Goucher to replace frame church
of 1849-50; originally named Morrow Chapel for John
Morrow, leading local citizen. Land was given in 1837
by Dr. Thomas Craddock Walker. Brick church in simple
style; education building added 1926.